# BREATH OF FLOWERS

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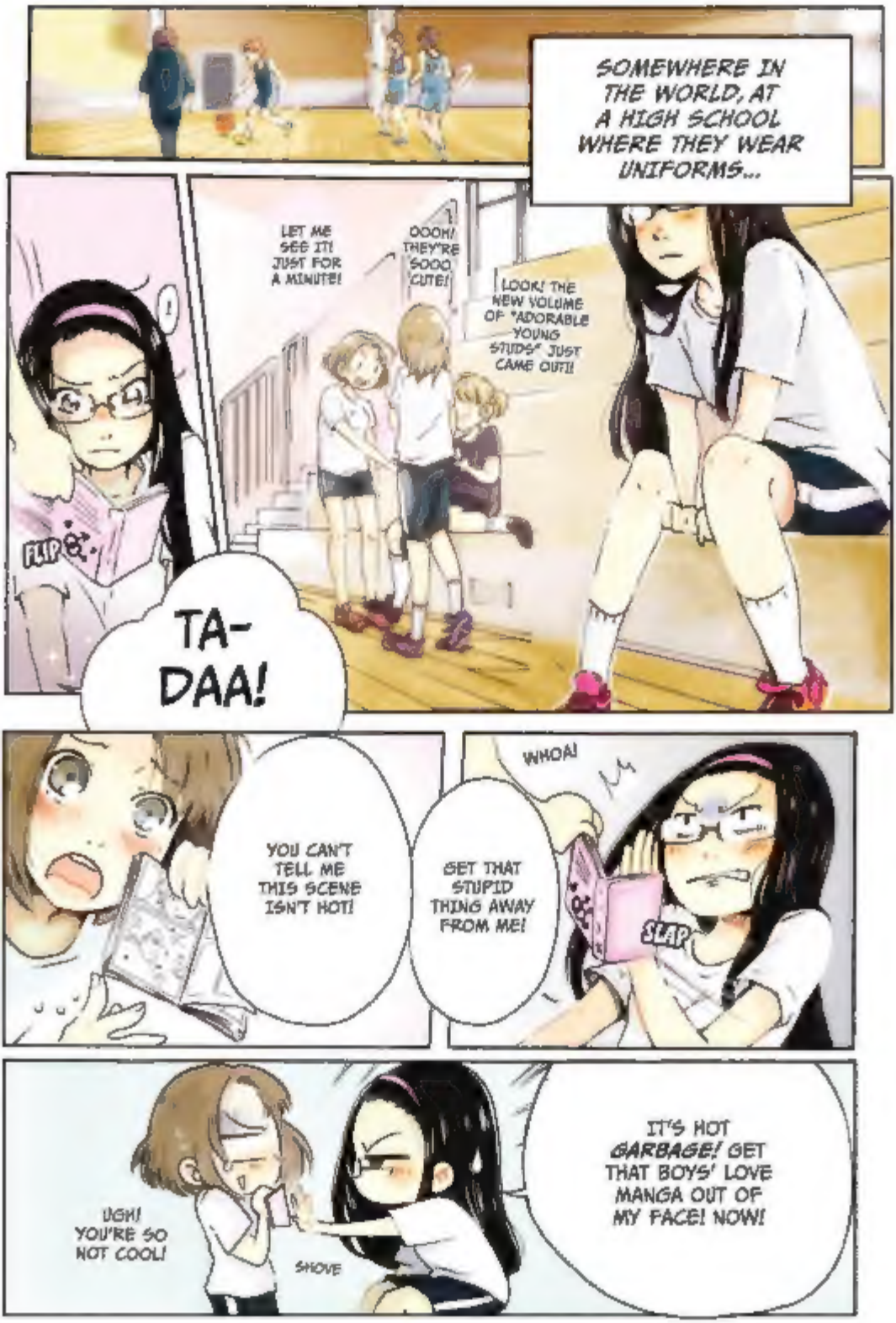
Story and Art by CALY

TOKYOPOP


SOMEWHERE IN THE WORLD, AT A HIGH SCHOOL WHERE THEY WEAR UNIFORMS...
LOOK! THE NEW VOLUME OF "ADORABLE YOUNG STUDS" JUST CAME OUT!!
OOOH! THEY'RE SOOO CUTE!
LET ME SEE IT! JUST FOR A MINUTE!
FLIP
TA-DAA!
YOU CAN'T TELL ME THIS SCENE ISN'T HOT!
GET THAT STUPID THING AWAY FROM ME!
WHOA!
SLAP
IT'S HOT GARBAGE! GET THAT BOYS' LOVE MANGA OUT OF MY FACE! NOW!
SHOVE
UGH! YOU'RE SO NOT COOL!

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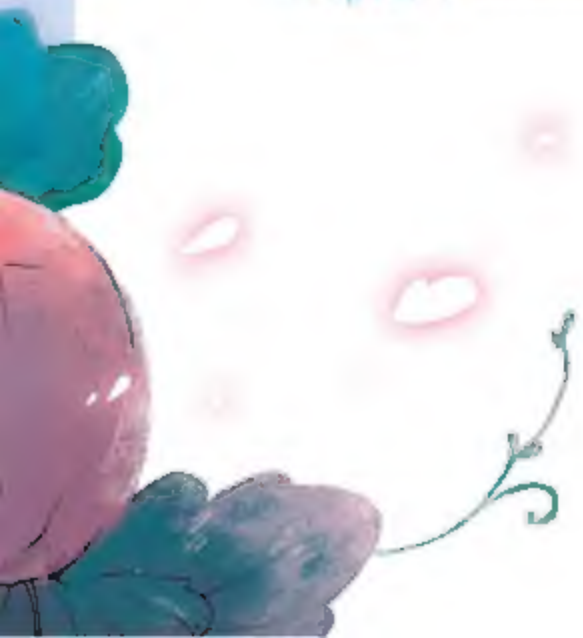


# Chapter 1
# Blooming

THE ONLY LOVE POSSIBLE IS THE BOND BETWEEN A YOUNG GIRL AND HER SOULMATE!

THAT KIND OF LOVE DOESN'T EXIST!

AND HIS NAME IS... *GWYN!*

THE CUTEST BOY IN SCHOOL! A GOOD STUDENT WHO IS ALSO GOOD AT SPORTS!!

BLAH BLAH BLAH

HUH?

...AND THEY STOPPED LISTENING TO ME!

PRACTICE IS OVER! HIT THE LOCKER ROOM!

SHOOSH

YES!

YES!!

...THESE TWO MEN?

RIDICULOUS!

DON'T YOU SEE, AZAMI...

THEIRS IS A REAL, BURNING PASSION!!

IT'S NOT NECESSARY TO STRIKE A POSE TO SAY THAT!

HOW DO YOU EXPECT TO FIND THE PERFECT MAN BASED ON THINGS LIKE THAT?!

THEY AREN'T LIVING A BURNING PASSION. THAT'S IMPOSSIBLE! THEY ARE JUST FOOLING AROUND WITH EACH OTHER BECAUSE THEY CAN'T... BECAUSE THEY HAVEN'T FOUND THE RIGHT GIRLFRIEND.

IT'S JUST A MANGA, AZAMI...

WHAT THE HELL ARE YOU DOING HERE?!

A... BRA...

AH!

YOU... YOU'RE...

A GIRL, YEAH... BUT PLEASE DON'T TELL ANYONE!

I ASKED...

I WAS WRONG!

DING DING DING!

AZAMI!!

AHHHH!



AT THE LOCKER ROOM DOOR.

ACCORDING TO MY HOROSCOPE, TODAY IS THE PERFECT DAY TO DECLARE MY LOVE FOR GWYN!

I'M JUST GOING TO GLANCE IN TO MAKE SURE!

HUH?

ALL THE GUYS ALREADY LEFT... DID I MISS GWYN?

ANY-BODY HERE?

WHAT THE...?

IT'S HORRIBLE!

I WAS IN LOVE WITH YOU!

YOU...

PLEASE LEAVE ME ALONE...

AND FORGET WHAT I JUST SAID, IT DOESN'T MATTER ANYMORE.

CLICK

AH!

ARE YOU OKAY? I TOOK YOU TO THE NURSE'S OFFICE...

HE'S A GIRL...

...

GET AWAY FROM ME!

WHY WOULD YOU MAKE PEOPLE THINK SOMETHING LIKE THAT?!

I...

I'M BORED...

A FEW DAYS LATER

I FEEL LIKE AN IDIOT FOR LOVING A GIRL...

(ESPECIALLY AFTER MY RECENT RANT)

WHAT'S WORSE THOUGH...

OH! SURE THING.

GWYN, YOU HAVE TO GO BY THE TEACHERS' OFFICE TO GET A FILE.

I DIDN'T GO BACK TO WATCH HER PRACTICE. I'VE JUST BEEN AVOIDING HER... I DON'T WANT TO HAVE TO CONFRONT HER AFTER WHAT HAPPENED.

SO...

THAT'S NOT AT ALL HOW I IMAGINED MY PROFOUND DECLARATION OF LOVE...

I FEEL EVEN WORSE FOR HAVING MESSED IT UP...

ALL RIGHT... NO MORE RUNNING.

THANKS AGAIN!

UH... NO PROB-LEM...

EVEN IF I HAVEN'T FIGURED OUT MY FEELINGS YET, I'M GOING TO LISTEN TO WHAT SHE HAS TO SAY...

WHY DO I FEEL THIS HUGE HOLE IN MY HEART...?

AND ON TOP OF THAT, IT'S SPRING AND MY POLLEN ALLERGIES ARE KILLING ME!

SNIFF

OH... THANKS...

SNIP

A JUNIOR ASKED ME TO GIVE YOU THIS IF I SAW YOU...

AZAMI!

IT'S FROM GWYN!

?!

We should talk.
I'll be in the gym during break.
- Gwyn

AH!

GWYN...?

AZAMI...

IT WAS JUST IN CASE THE SHOCK IN THE LOCKER ROOM GAVE YOU AMNESIA...

THAT'S STUPID! WE'RE NOT IN A MANGA.

AND SINCE I WANTED TO HAVE A SERIOUS TALK ABOUT THAT...

BUT I'M NOT VERY COMFORTABLE IN A SKIRT.

W-WHY ARE YOU WEARING A SKIRT?



SO... YOU WANTED TO TALK TO ME?

DANG... SHE'S STILL SUPER CUTE. I CAN'T EVEN LOOK AT HER WITHOUT MY HEART FLUTTERING...

I'M REALLY SORRY I MADE YOU CRY...

I NEVER THOUGHT THIS SITUATION WOULD LEAD TO THIS...

IT'S... A BUNCH OF DIFFERENT THINGS...

WHY DID YOU MAKE PEOPLE AT SCHOOL THINK YOU'RE A BOY?

NOT FOR THE GAMES, JUST PRACTICES... PLEASE!

MAYBE I COULD PLAY ON THE BOYS' TEAM.

NO! WAIT, I..

COACH

YES!

COACH

WELL, IT'S NOT ABOUT THE GAMES.. WE'RE LOW ON PLAYERS, SO IF YOU THINK YOU'RE-

I SHOULD REALLY CUT MY HAIR I CAN'T SEE A THING!

AH..!

IT'S COOL TO HAVE SOME NEW PLAYERS ON THE TEAM!

*THE FIRST DAY OF PRACTICE...*

*MY BROTHER'S FRIEND RECOMMENDED A SCHOOL THAT HAD A GREAT REPUTATION BACK IN HIS DAY. I WAS SO EXCITED THAT I SIGNED UP WITHOUT CHECKING IT OUT..*

WHERE DO I SIGN?

HIGH SCHOOL ENROLLMENTS ARE OPEN!

*WHEN I WAS IN MIDDLE SCHOOL, I ONLY WANTED ONE THING: TO GO TO A HIGH SCHOOL WITH A GREAT SPORTS PROGRAM SO BASKETBALL COULD BE ONE OF MY SUBJECTS AND I COULD PLAY EVERY DAY!*

UM. OKAY?

SURE EXCITING NEWS, GWYN.

YEAH, GREAT.

EVEN THE BOYS' TEAM IS IN DECLINE.

YOU GOT SOME BAD ADVICE. SORRY, KIDDO..

COACH

WE DON'T HAVE A GIRLS' TEAM ANYMORE. HAVEN'T FOR A FEW YEARS. WE DIDN'T GET ENOUGH SIGN-UPS.

WHAT?!

*BUT WHEN I WENT TO SIGN UP FOR THE GIRLS' BASKETBALL TEAM A FEW DAYS BEFORE SCHOOL STARTED...*

WHAT?!

BUT I ALREADY ENROLLED IN THIS HIGH SCHOOL!!

YEAH.. YOU'RE RIGHT

BUT...

THAT'S...

REALLY STUPID.

AND AT THE SAME TIME REALLY ADORABLE..

I'M RONAN!

WHAT ARE YOU SO HAPPY ABOUT? YOU'RE THE SAME HEIGHT!

HOW COOL IS THAT? I WON'T BE THE SHORTEST GUY ON THE TEAM ANYMORE!!

—AH.. I'M GWYN TORM.

I'M THOMAS, THE TEAM CAPTAIN. WELCOME!

AND THE LIE STUCK WITH THE TEAM, AND EVENTUALLY THE WHOLE SCHOOL...

BUT THEN WORD HAD ALREADY SPREAD..

AH!

I DIDN'T UNDERSTAND RIGHT AWAY THAT THEY THOUGHT I WAS A BOY

WHAT DO I DO? SHOULD I TELL THEM?

BUT THEN... THERE WAS YOU.

I KEPT TELLING MYSELF THAT IT WASN'T HURTING ANYONE.. WHETHER I WAS A GIRL OR A BOY.

I WON'T BOTHER YOU WITH MY FEELINGS AGAIN. WE CAN JUST PRETEND LIKE NOTHING HAPPENED..

HUH?

WHAT?!

I GET IT NO PROBLEM. I WON'T TELL ANYONE..

JUST FORGET WHAT I SAID THE OTHER DAY IN THE NURSE'S OFFICE, AND WE'LL CALL IT EVEN.

SO I DECIDED TO KEEP UP THE RUSE.

BUT EVEN THOUGH IT WAS ALL BASED ON ASSUMPTIONS THAT WEREN'T TRUE

I HAD FRIENDS AND THE TEAM WAS STARTING TO GET REALLY GOOD..

I COULD HAVE ASKED TO CHANGE SCHOOLS AFTER THE FIRST YEAR AND EVERYTHING WOULD HAVE GONE BACK TO NORMAL

...

FOR A LONG TIME NOW. .

WHEN I REALIZED THAT IT WAS ME YOU WERE COMING TO SEE AT EVERY PRACTICE.

HOLD ON!

SHE'S BACK...

OH MY GOSH! HE LOOKED AT ME!

HUH. ?

HEE HEE!

BUT I CAN'T FORGET WHAT YOU TOLD ME!

BECAUSE, I'M ALSO..

I AM SO SORRY IF ANY OF THIS HURT YOU.

WAIT, YOU DIDN'T UNDER-STAND..

NO... THAT'S IMPOSSIBLE!

I'M IN LOVE WITH YOU TOO... AZAMI.

AT LEAST NOW YOU KNOW WHAT'S REALLY—

I GUESS THAT WAS PRETTY DUMB TOO..

NO, NOT AT ALL!

BOP

HA!

LOOKS LIKE YOU'RE A HIT WITH THAT BLACK-HAIRED FRESHMAN!

HEY, GWYN! ARE YOU PLAYING BALL OR PICKING UP CHICKS?

I NEVER WANTED TO HURT YOU. I THOUGHT IGNORING YOU WAS THE BEST THING TO DO.

N-NO WAY! LET'S GET BACK ON THE COURT!

OK, OK!

E-EXCUSE ME?!

WHAT'S THAT SUPPOSED TO MEAN?

I GUESS YOU MUST THINK FEELINGS CAN BE CHANGED OUT LIKE ROLLS OF TOILET PAPER?

*IT MEANS THAT MY FEELINGS HAVEN'T CHANGED EVEN THOUGH NOW I KNOW YOU'RE A GIRL...*

AND YOU WOULD EVENTUALLY FIGURE OUT THAT I WASN'T THE PRINCE CHARMING YOU WERE WAITING FOR YOU'D GET INTERESTED IN ANOTHER BOY...

THAT WAY YOU WOULDN'T LEARN THE TRUTH ABOUT ME...

# Chapter 2
# Charming

Y-YES! ME TOO, I..

AH! IT MEANS... I LOVE YOU!!

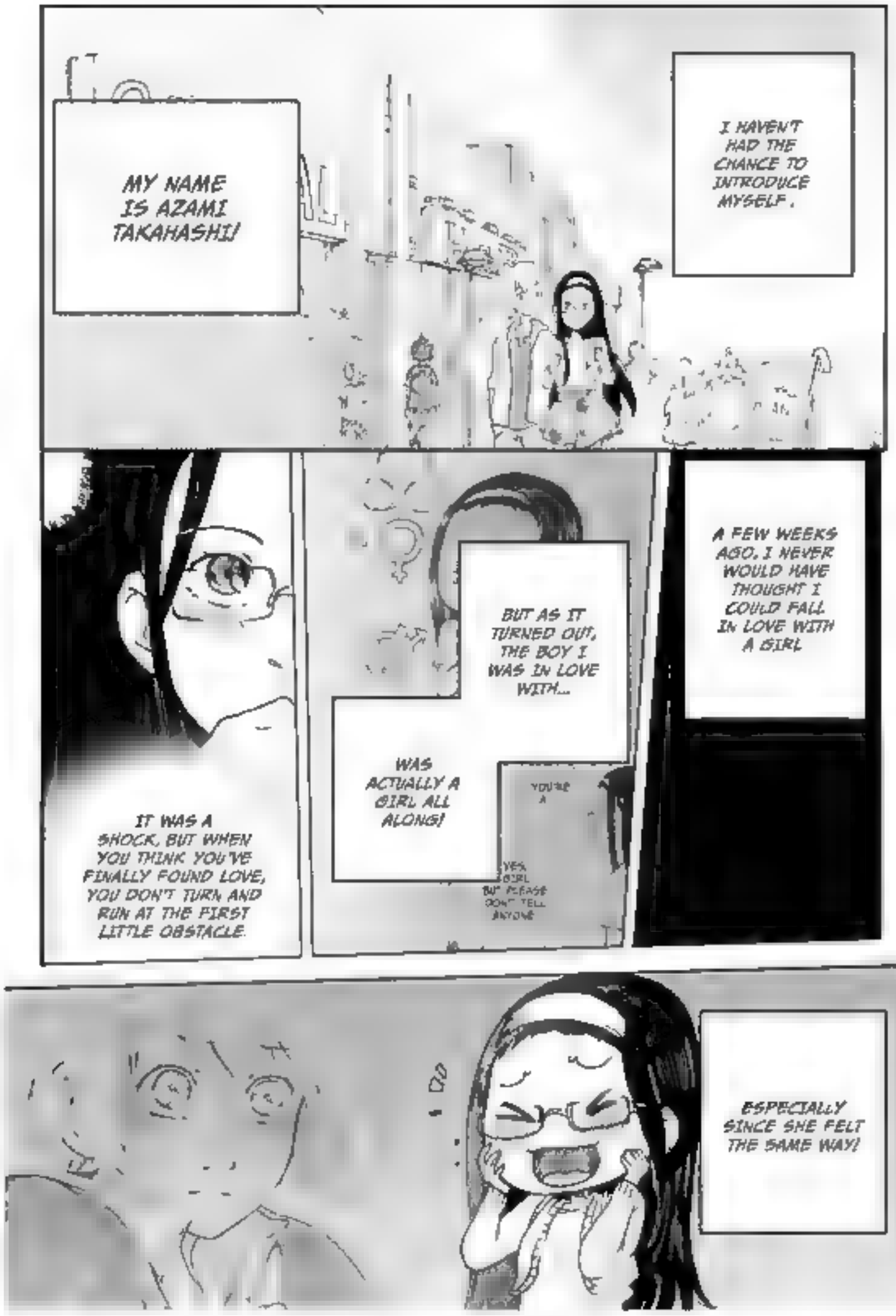
THAT'S WHEN YOU SAY "I LOVE YOU TOO"! OR IT'S RECIPROCAL

HMPH!

LOVE YOU TOO...

SMOOCH

IF YOU CAN'T BE MY PRINCE CHARMING, WILL YOU BE MY PRINCESS?


MY NAME IS AZAMI TAKAHASHI!
I HAVEN'T HAD THE CHANCE TO INTRODUCE MYSELF.
IT WAS A SHOCK, BUT WHEN YOU THINK YOU'VE FINALLY FOUND LOVE, YOU DON'T TURN AND RUN AT THE FIRST LITTLE OBSTACLE.
BUT AS IT TURNED OUT, THE BOY I WAS IN LOVE WITH...
WAS ACTUALLY A GIRL ALL ALONG!
YOU'RE A
YES, GIRL BUT PLEASE DON'T TELL ANYONE
A FEW WEEKS AGO, I NEVER WOULD HAVE THOUGHT I COULD FALL IN LOVE WITH A GIRL
ESPECIALLY SINCE SHE FELT THE SAME WAY!

.. AND THE PRINCESS ARRIVED ON HER WHITE STALLION!

BUT

I STILL HAD THIS NAGGING DOUBT...

AT FIRST, IT FELT LIKE A DREAM.

"WHAT IF GWYN'S BEHAVING LIKE A PRINCE JUST BECAUSE SHE THINKS THAT'S WHAT I WANT?"

I DON'T DESERVE IT!

EVEN IF I'M WRONG... GWYN IS SO CONSIDERATE, SO SWEET, SO ATTENTIVE...

SHE LOVES ME, BUT SHE'S AFRAID I DON'T LOVE HER FOR WHO SHE IS!

I THOUGHT GWYN WOULD LOOK DIFFERENT TO ME AFTER THAT.

BUT IT WAS THE OPPOSITE!

SHE SHOWED HERSELF TO BE..

THE PRINCE CHARMING I'VE ALWAYS IMAGINED!

CONSIDERATE...

GALLANT

EVERYTHING A PRINCESS COULD EVER WANT!

THE DRESSING ROOMS ARE THIS WAY!

OH, THANKS!

BUT WHY AM I THE ONLY ONE TRYING THINGS ON?

I'D LOVE TO SEE HER IN SOME CUTE OUTFITS TOO.

HERE! I FOUND A DRESS FOR YOU TO TRY ON.

AHH... OKAY!

DRESSING ROOMS

UNDER SURVEILLANCE

IT LOOKS GREAT ON YOU! A REAL LADY!

AAH!! IS IT POSSIBLE TO DIE FROM AN OVERDOSE OF CUTENESS?

RUSTLE

HERE!

WHAT DO YOU THINK?

HUH?

RUSTLE

WHAT ARE YOU DOING ON THE FLOOR? IS SOMETHING WRONG?

SMILE

NOT AT ALL! E-EVERYTHING'S GREAT!

ACTUALLY, THAT'S -

"BOYFRIEND?!"

AH.

SHOOT! WHAT AM I SUPPOSED TO SAY? "MY GIRLFRIEND"? WHY DO I HESITATE?!

THAT'S NOT...

YOU HAVE A CHARMING BOYFRIEND WHO LIKES SHOPPING WITH YOU..

HERE'S THE OTHER DRESS!

PERFECT!

I'LL TRY IT ON RIGHT AWAY!!

?

FLAP

WHAT'S WRONG? YOU HAVEN'T SAID A WORD SINCE WE LEFT THE STORE..

AZAMI

COME BACK SOON!

HUH?!

THEY HAVE IT IN ANOTHER COLOR! I'LL GET IT FOR YOU!

THE COLOR'S A LITTLE...

OFF SHE GOES

WAIT! I DON'T NEED—

YOU DON'T HAVE TO...

ANTICIPATE MY EVERY NEED...

AS IF I WERE SOME KIND OF PRINCESS...

YOU'RE A LUCKY GIRL!

HMM?

GWYN, YOU!

GWYN?!

HUH?

OH!

HMMM?

WHY AM I LETTING YOU CARRY THE BAG?! I CAN CARRY IT! G-GIVE IT HERE!

EH?!

N-NO!

DON'T SWEAT IT I'VE SPENT A WONDERFUL DAY WITH YOU, I CAN CARRY A FEW BAGS.

SO DIFFERENT FROM WHEN IT WAS LONG

IS THAT SUPPOSED TO BE ME?

AH!

IT IS YOU! I THOUGHT YOU WERE A BOY AT FIRST IF I HADN'T HEARD YOUR NAME, I WOULDN'T HAVE RECOGNIZED YOU!

HAHA. A BOY? REALLY ?

IT'S BEEN AGES SINCE MIDDLE SCHOOL! YOU'VE CHANGED YOUR HAIR... WOW. .

HMM?

SHE SAID THAT TO ME LIKE IT'S THE MOST NATURAL THING!

STOMP

STOMP

IF YOUR FRIEND'S OKAY WITH THAT..

(SHE SURE DOESN'T LOOK IT..

DO YOU WANT TO FIND SOMEWHERE WE CAN SIT DOWN?

SURE, WHY NOT?

FLOWER CO

OH, YEAH...

IT'S NICE HERE

BUT YOU. WOW.. I DON'T KNOW WHAT TO SAY!

YOU'VE CHANGED TOO, ALVIN.

HMM... (¬_¬)

AFTER TWO YEARS, I WOULD HOPE I'VE GROWN UP A BIT!

H-HER...

AH! ARE YOU CLASS-MATES?

HUH?!

NO, I'M HER GIRL-

ALVIN, THIS IS AZAMI, A FRIEND FROM SCHOOL.

HAVE YOU DECIDED WHAT ..

HELLO..

SO, GWYN, ARE YOU STILL PLAYING BASKETBALL?

SURE, WHEN I'M NOT STUDYING..

AH!~

DIDN'T YOU WANT TO DO AN ATHLETIC PROGRAM? WHICH HIGH SCHOOL ARE YOU IN?

UHHH...

YOU'D LIKE?

BA-DUMP BA-DUMP

UM, JUST A COFFEE

THAT'S ALL!

Y-YES, MISS!

I'LL HAVE A LEMON-ADE!

GREAT! I'LL BRING THOSE RIGHT OUT!

HEE HEE

IF NOT, I CAN COME BACK IN A FEW MINUTES.

~NO PROBLEM~

NO, WE KNOW WHAT WE WANT! A CAPPUCCINO, PLEASE!

EXCUSE ME! WAITER! WE'RE READY TO ORDER!

IS IT MY IMAGINATION OR WAS THAT WAITRESS CRUSHING ON YOU?

DOES SHE THINK YOU'RE A GUY OR WHAT?

HUH?

FIDGET

I... I DON'T KNOW, MAYBE...

NO... DON'T LEAVE ME WITH THIS GUY..

SEE YOU SOON...

MUMPH

I'M GOING TO THE RESTROOM. IF THE DRINKS ARRIVE, JUST START WITHOUT ME.

BWVN



LIKE A NATURAL BEAUTY, NOT ONE OF THOSE SUPERFICIAL GIRLS..

YOU KNOW, SHE WAS SUPER CUTE IN MIDDLE SCHOOL..

WHAT A WASTE TO SEE HER LIKE THAT NOW..

BANG

I MEAN, SO TO SPEAK-

SPLASH

HERE ARE YOUR DRINKS!

IT'S KINDA SAD THAT SHE DRESSES LIKE A BOY.

YOU'D REALLY HAVE TO BE SOME KIND OF FAIRY TO GO OUT WITH HER...

# Chapter 3
# Talking over

GWYN IS PERFECT THE WAY SHE IS!

ARE YOU DONE WITH YOUR BIGOTED, IDIOTIC COMMENTS?!

CLANG

BANG

SHE WAS ALREADY TOO GOOD FOR YOU IN MIDDLE SCHOOL. AND YOU NEVER WOULD HAVE HAD THE SLIGHTEST CHANCE OF GOING OUT WITH HER! EVER!

NOW, YOU'RE JUST JEALOUS THAT A GIRL COULD BE SO MUCH MORE SUCCESSFUL THAN AN ASSHOLE LIKE YOU.

COULD YOU JUST SLOW DOWN?!

AND TELL ME WHAT HAPPENED?

AZAMI!

TAP

K STORE

AZAMI!

GRAB

AZAMI! HOLD ON!

O-OKAY...

RIGHT NOW!

TAP

PERFECT TIMING! LET'S GO!

HUH?

BUT

CLACK

DEBIT

CLIP

SO YOU'RE GETTING THE BILL?

SWISH

SNIFF

SNIFF

HUH?!

STOP CRYING..

PLEASE..

NOW, YOU'RE GOING TO CALMLY TELL ME EXACTLY WHAT HAPPENED, OKAY?

PLEASE...

AZAMI...

AS.. AS SOON AS YOU LEFT, HE STARTED TALKING A BUNCH OF TRASH ABOUT YOU!

I'M SORRY IF HE WAS A FRIEND OF YOURS, BUT THAT GUY IS A PIG! THERE!!

WAAAH!!

SOB

SNIFF

AAAH!

SNIFF

AND I CAN'T STAND IT WHEN SOMEONE SAYS ANYTHING BAD ABOUT

AH..

EVERYTHING HE SAID ABOUT YOU WAS WRONG!

YOU'RE SUPER CUTE AND THAT'S NOT ALL..

HE ALSO SAID SOME OTHER THINGS, BUT I REALLY DON'T WANT TO REPEAT THEM.

THEY UPSET ME TOO MUCH

GRRR..

WELL..

WHAT DID HE SAY THAT UPSET YOU SO MUCH..?

BECAUSE YOU DRESS LIKE A BOY

WELL..

HE SAID YOU WEREN'T CUTE..

THAT'S SWEET, BUT.

WELL, UP TO THAT POINT YOU REALLY CAN'T ARGUE WITH HIM...

WHAT?! NO!

GWYN! TELL ME THE TRUTH..

WAIT, I'M NOT FOLLOWING.

ARE YOU UPSET BECAUSE OF WHAT HE SAID... OR BECAUSE OF ME?

AH!

DAMN! WHAT THE HELL AM I DOING CRITICIZING HER?! WE WERE TALKING ONLY ABOUT THAT OTHER GUY...

IS THAT REALLY HOW YOU SEE OUR RELATIONSHIP?

YOU THE GALLANT KNIGHT SERVING ME, THE PRINCESS?

FOR EXAMPLE, I CAN'T FIGURE OUT IF YOU'RE REALLY JUST BEING YOURSELF DRESSING LIKE A BOY TODAY...

OR IF YOU'RE DOING IT JUST BECAUSE I WAS SO UNCOMFORTABLE THE FIRST TIME I SAW YOU IN A GIRL'S SCHOOL UNIFORM.

NO... I WAS JUST TRYING TO SAY .

IF THAT'S IT, THEN WHAT HE THINKS ABOUT YOU IS ALL MY FAULT....

*KNIGHT*?!

I REALLY.. DID I REALLY THROW MY LEMONADE IN HIS FACE?!

CHUCKLE

HAHA

YOU REALLY DID!

HEH...

YOU REALLY GAVE HIM THE COLD SHOULDER..

I ONLY AGREED TO GRAB A COFFEE WITH HIM BECAUSE I FORGOT WHAT AN ASS HE WAS BACK THEN!

I COULDN'T CARE LESS WHAT HE THINKS!

HUH?

WHAT?!

WAHAHA

HAHA

HAHA

AND FROM WHAT I SAW..

GRR

SPLASH

AH!

AZAMI...

HMM?

HA

HA

YOU CAN TAKE CARE OF YOURSELF PRETTY WELL WITHOUT ME!

I'M NOT YOUR KNIGHT

I'VE NEVER LOVED ANYONE LIKE I LOVE YOU...

AND A LITTLE SCARY

IT'S NEW...

I'M NOT EXACTLY THE PERSON YOU THOUGHT I WAS..

IT'S TRUE -

MAYBE IN THE BEGINNING I WAS TRYING TO MAKE YOU FEEL MORE RELAXED...

SO I TOOK THE TIME TO LISTEN TO YOU.

AND I DIDN'T KNOW MUCH ABOUT YOU EITHER.

TO SPEND TIME WITH YOU.

IN THE BEGINNING WE WERE JUST GETTING TO KNOW EACH OTHER..

I WANTED TO LEARN EVERYTHING ABOUT YOU..

BUT I DIDN'T TAKE THE TIME JUST TO ASK...

I WAS PROBABLY IMPATIENT TOO

I WAS SO ANXIOUS TO GET TO KNOW EVERYTHING ABOUT YOU. I MIGHT HAVE PUSHED TOO HARD.

EARLIER YOU WERE ASKING ME WHY I WEAR CLOTHES LIKE THIS.

I'LL TELL YOU A SECRET ABOUT MYSELF.

I'M NOT VERY GOOD AT THAT KIND OF THING..

THE TRUTH IS, THESE ARE MOSTLY HAND-ME-DOWNS FROM MY BROTHER!

I'VE NEVER REALLY PAID MUCH ATTENTION TO HOW I DRESS.

SIGH

I JUST WANT THINGS TO BE GOOD BETWEEN US.

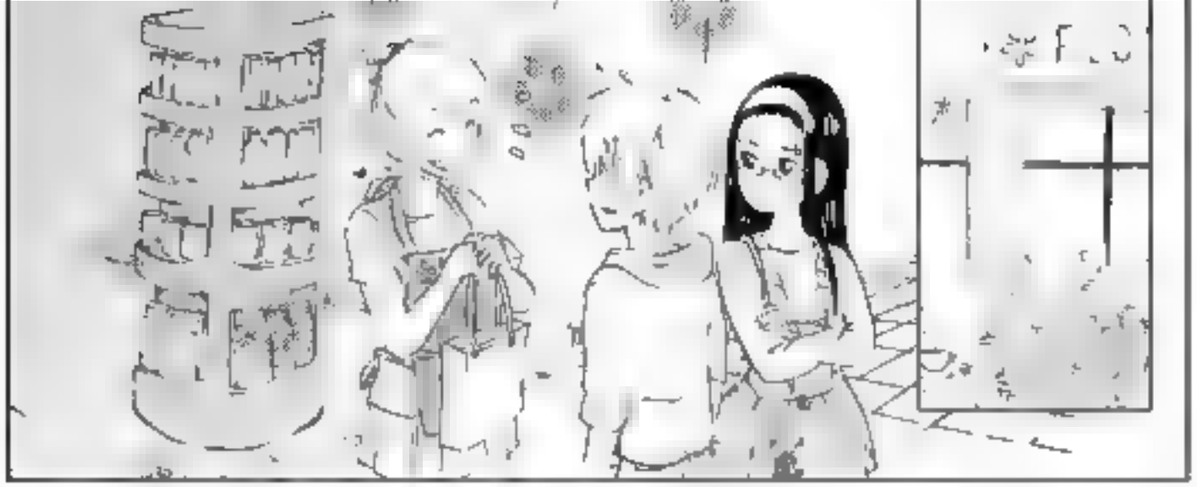
AH!

BLUSH

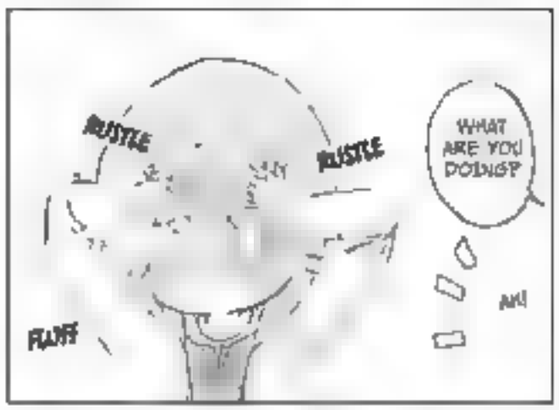
BUT...

HMMM

HEE HEE



BUMP!
COME BACK ANYTIME!


RUSTLE
RUSTLE
WHAT ARE YOU DOING?
AH!
FLUFF

WAHA! A WEIRDO!
HEEHEE
PFUHUH

NOTHING.
IT'S JUST THAT THE ONLY GOOD THING I LEARNED FROM THAT CRETIN WAS THAT I DIDN'T REALLY NEED TO WORRY ABOUT OTHER GUYS AROUND YOU. BUT I FORGOT THAT I NOW HAVE TO WORRY ABOUT OTHER GIRLS...
HUH?!
WHAT IS IT?
I DON'T LIKE THAT LOOK...
YOU'RE JUST TOO CUTE.

ON THE OTHER HAND... I DON'T MIND SHOPPING FOR CLOTHES WITH SOMEONE...
ESPECIALLY IF THAT SOMEONE IS YOU.

SPARKLE
SPARKLE
AHH...
THE RETURN OF THE CUTENESS-INDUCED HEART ATTACK!

OH, NO!
WE LEFT YOUR DRESS AT THE CAFÉ!

SURE WHAT IS IT?

?

GWYN...

CAN I ASK ONE MORE PRINCESS FAVOR TODAY?

GWYN!

HMM?

SHOOP

CAN YOU JUST WAIT HERE FOR A MINUTE?

I'LL BE RIGHT BACK

OH?

TAP

WE'RE HERE! THIS IS THE STORE!

AAHHH...

I THOUGHT IT WAS JUST SIMPLE AND CUTE..

AND I THOUGHT THAT IF YOU NEEDED TO WEAR A DRESS ONE DAY, IT SHOULD BE ONE LIKE THIS!

FOR ME? WHY?

IT'S A DRESS?

HERE! IT'S FOR YOU!

I SAW THIS BEAUTIFUL DRESS IN THE WINDOW EARLIER..

AND SINCE IT'S NOT REALLY YOUR THING TO TRY THINGS ON IN THE STORE, I SAVED YOU THE TROUBLE BUT I REALLY WANTED

YOU'RE SO SWEET! THANK YOU, AZAMI.

I-IT'S NOTHING

THUMP

THUMP

WOW! I NEED TO KEEP MY HEART FROM EXPLODING OUT OF MY CHEST!

TO PICK OUT SOMETHING..

FOR YOU TOO.

# Chapter 4
# Stifling

GWYN! OVER HERE!

BRING IT ON!

TOO COOL

TELL ME EVERYTHING!

SOOO...?

WHAT?

WELL.

YOUR "PRINCE" - IT'S GWYN, RIGHT?

BAM!!

OH, NO...

GWYN!

TAKE HIM TO THE NURSE'S OFFICE

GWYN!!

WHAT THE HELL??

HUMP HUMP

GWYN! YOU'RE SLACKING TODAY!

haha...

NO JOKE...

HUFF

HUFF

FLINCH

I'M A FRESHMAN. MY NAME IS AZAMI TAKAHASHI AND..

HUH..

I SAY THAT BUT...

IF YOU'RE REALLY DATING, THEN I EXPECT YOU ALREADY KNOW...

IF YOU DON'T HAVE CLASS

IN THAT CASE, I GUESS YOU CAN STAY

AH!

AND I'M... GWYN'S GIRLFRIEND!

OH!

KNOW KNOW WHAT?!



BUT..

NO MEANS NO!

ROOM 257 - INFIRMARY

HUH?

I WILL NOT HAVE A CROWD INVADING MY INFIRMARY!

WE JUST WANT TO KNOW IF HE'S OKAY.

DON'T YOU HAVE PRACTICE?

THAT'S VERY NICE OF YOU BOYS, BUT YOU NEED TO LEAVE AND LET ME TAKE CARE OF HIM...

AND WHO ARE YOU?

AH!

SIGH

IT'S NOT FAIR.

WHAT DO YOU WANT?

GWYN!

AGH!

I'M NOT A LADY..

HJFF .

MY HEAD'S SPINNING

BEHAVE YOURSELF..

NO, THANK YOU...

DO I HAVE TO TIE YOU TO THE BED TO KEEP YOU QUIET?

?

?

HUH? WHAT'S GOING ON?!

LIE BACK DOWN, SILLY

MMM

PAT

PUSH

HEY!

SNHM

!!?

EH! B-BUT...

HOW DO YOU KNOW?!

THAT GWYNDOLIN TORM IS A GIRL AND THEREFORE I DON'T WANT TO EXAMINE HER IN FRONT OF A BUNCH OF BOYS.

THINK ABOUT IT..

THEREFORE, I WOULD KNOW...

I'M THE SCHOOL NURSE.

O-OH, RIGHT.. THAT'S TRUE!

!!

THIS YOUNG LADY HAS DEFINITELY GIVEN US A FEW THINGS TO WORRY ABOUT LATELY

FLASH!

AND THOSE RED MARKS..

VLAD

A BANDAGE?!

NO... BUT SINCE WHEN...?

AND... WAS GWYN ALWAYS SO THIN?!

WHY?!

AND I DIDN'T EVEN NOTICE...

WHAT? GWYN ALREADY FAINTED THIS WEEK?!

IT'S THE SECOND TIME THIS WEEK SHE'S DONE THIS.

RUSTLE

HERE! GET CHANGED!

FWISH

IF YOU KEEP THIS UP

I'M AFRAID I'LL HAVE TO TELL YOUR PARENTS..

WHAT'S GOING ON?

GWYUP

HM.

THEN YOU HAVE TO TRY TO EAT SOME-THING..

AND AT LEAST TRY TO GET A LITTLE REST BEFORE GOING HOME.

DRINK SOME JUICE

HERE!

AH!

THAT NOT EATING AND TIGHTENING THAT BANDAGE..

GWYNDOLIN, YOU HAVE TO UNDERSTAND..

AREN'T GOING TO STOP YOU FROM DEVELOPING AS A WOMAN.

HUH?

WHAT'S THIS ALL ABOUT?

WHY DIDN'T YOU TELL ME?

WHY AREN'T YOU SAYING ANYTHING?!



W-WHAT?!

GO HOME

!!

PLEASE! JUST GET OUT OF HERE!

BUT GWYN-

YOU AREN'T HELPING ME BY BEING HERE..

DID GWYN JUST... DUMP ME?!

...TAP

...TAP

HOW LONG HAS SHE BEEN LIKE THAT...?

YESTERDAY, SHE WAS SMILING LIKE NOTHING WAS GOING ON.

WE TALKED LIKE ALWAYS.

CLACK

AHH! I CAN'T BELIEVE IT!

?!

?

SHE'S THE ONE WHO TOLD ME TO LET HER KNOW WHENEVER I HAD A PROBLEM

BUT...

GWYN! DO YOU WANT TO GRAB LUNCH TOGETHER TODAY?

UH.

ACTUALLY, MY CLASS DOESN'T FINISH UNTIL 1:30 I'LL EAT AFTER!

YOU DON'T NEED TO WAIT FOR ME

OH. OKAY

WHEN WAS THE LAST TIME WE ATE TOGETHER?

WAIT...

THAT SHE WAS IN PAIN?!

AND WHY DIDN'T I SEE...

NOW SHE'S THE ONE WITH THE PROBLEM!

BEFORE, IT SEEMED SO EASY TO LIE ABOUT HOW SHE LOOKED... BUT NOW IT'S TORTURING HER...

WHEN DID SHE DECIDE TO PUSH IT SO FAR?

# Chapter 5
# Storming

BUT.. YOU SEE. I MET WITH THE NURSE AND..

COACH

CONSIDERING WHAT HAPPENED YESTERDAY, I CAN'T LET YOU TRAIN TODAY.

I KNOW THAT THE TRYOUTS FOR THE REGIONAL ALL STAR TEAM ARE COMING UP SOON.

I'M NOT GOING TO OVERRULE HER. HONESTLY, SHE KINDA SCARED ME WHEN SHE STARED AT ME.

COACH

WITH THOSE EYES.

SHIVER

...

YOU CAN STAY AND WATCH IF YOU WANT, BUT...

HUH?

YOU'RE REALLY STUDYING... WHAT A NERD!

AH..

NO THANKS I HAVE SOME HOMEWORK I SHOULD FINISH

JUDITH?

NO...

YOUR GIRL FRIEND'S NOT WITH YOU?

OH, SURE SHE IS HERE!

CONCH

HELLO...

CAN YOU SIGN THIS PLEASE?

LIBRARY RULES

WHAT DO YOU THINK?

THAT I'M JUST TALKING ABOUT YOUR GIRLFRIEND?

OF COURSE NOT! I'M TALKING ABOUT YOU, GWYN! I KNOW THAT YOU'RE...

WHAT ARE YOU TALKING ABOUT?

UM...

A GIR--

MMPH!

AH! W-WHAT?!

AH!!

AND FOR SUCH A TRUE-BLUE GIRL TO GET DUMPED BY HER GIRLFRIEND MUST HAVE BEEN A REAL SHOCK.

GOTTA ADMIT, YOU DIDN'T HAVE TO DO MUCH TO GET RID OF HER!

OH!

NO. YOU WERE RIGHT. SHE WAS GETTING TO BE A PAIN IN THE ASS WITH ALL THOSE QUESTIONS!

AND BY THE WAY, I'M NOT HOMOPHOBIC, SO YOU DON'T HAVE TO PRETEND WITH ME.

FLAP

YOU HEARD...

EVERY-THING!

AH...

THERE

I WAS ALREADY THERE, AND THE NURSE MUST HAVE FORGOTTEN ABOUT ME.

AND..

HOW DID YOU KNOW?

HEY, DON'T WORRY! I WASN'T GOING TO SCREAM...

IT'S JUST .. WE'RE IN THE LIBRARY

TSH!

IT'S NONE OF YOUR BUSINESS.

I'M NOT TELLING YOU JUST BECAUSE YOU KNOW I'M A GIRL...

TELL ME-

BUT I WAS WONDERING WHY YOU BROKE UP WITH HER!

TAP

WHAT?!

HUH?

IS IT BECAUSE SHE'S NEVER SEEN YOU NAKED?

PLAH

PFFT

AS IF!

YOU'RE SO GULLIBLE!

HMPH

I OVERHEARD YOU YESTERDAY IN THE NURSE'S OFFICE

AHA!

HUH?!

I'M THE CLASS REPRESEN-TATIVE, SO I HAVE FILES ON ALL THE STUDENTS!

REALLY?

LET'S SEE...

HOW COMFORTABLE ARE YOU WITH YOUR GIRLFRIEND? HOW MANY TIMES HAVE YOU KISSED SINCE YOU STARTED GOING OUT?

WHAT?!

EXCUSE ME?!

ONE HAND?!

OH, MY!

DON'T TELL ME THAT YOU CAN COUNT THE NUMBER OF TIMES ON THE FINGERS OF...

HUH? WHAT'S THAT GOT TO DO WITH ANYTHING?!

OKAY, THAT'S ENOUGH.

AND I WAS WONDERING HOW SUCH A SHY, RESERVED GIRL...

UH-OH!

GWYN THE BOY LIKES TO PLAY IT COOL...

BUT GWYN THE GIRL IS MAYBE A LITTLE UPTIGHT?

...

IS IT TRUE?

OKAY, WHAT DO YOU WANT?

SIGH

C'MON...

SHOW ME I'M WRONG AND I'LL LEAVE YOU ALONE.

SHUT UP STOP LAUGHING!

PFFF

THAT'S PRETTY PRECISE!

HEE HEE

OKAY, OKAY! SERIOUSLY THOUGH...

SO WHAT'S THE PROBLEM?

THE...

"PROBLEM"?

OOPS.

SHHH! YOU'RE IN THE LIBRARY!

FLUTTER

SWISH

SO, GWYN, TELL ME..

TH-THREE TIMES..

AND YOU'VE BEEN DATING SINCE...?

4 MONTHS AND 17 DAYS!

OOH!

IN MY ROLE AS CLASS REPRESENTATIVE ..

I CAN SEE THAT YOUR GRADES HAVE BEEN GOING DOWN IN THE LAST FEW MONTHS..

IF YOU CAN'T GET YOUR GRADES UP, YOU WON'T BE ALLOWED TO...

PLAY BASKETBALL.

YEAH, THE PROBLEM YOU DON'T WANT TO TALK TO YOUR GIRLFRIEND ABOUT .

AND THAT I DON'T WANT TO TALK ABOUT AT ALL!

END OF CONVERSATION.

PLUS, YOU JUST DUMPED YOUR GIRLFRIEND..

...

WHAT HAVE YOU GOT LEFT?

EXCEPT THAT

TAP

EXCUSE ME.

HMMM...

I'M LOOKING FOR GWYN TORM.

UH, YES. I DIDN'T SEE HIM IN THE GYM, SO I THOUGHT MAYBE...

AH! YOU'RE HIS FRESHMAN FRIEND?

AZAMI, RIGHT?

EXIT

EXCEPT...

LETTING ME HELP YOU.

LET'S GO SOMEWHERE LESS BUSY WHERE WE CAN TALK..

AND IF YOU'RE STILL NOT CONVINCED, I'LL LEAVE YOU TO YOUR TROUBLES.

I HAVE TO SEE HER!

BUT I DIDN'T SLEEP A WINK LAST NIGHT AFTER WHAT HAPPENED YESTERDAY...

HAHAHAHA

UNLESS SHE SHOOS ME AWAY AGAIN

I AM HER BEST FRIEND AFTER ALL! I SHOULD BE HER CLOSEST CONFIDANT! SHE'LL TALK TO ME..

WHETHER SHE WANTS ME TO OR NOT, I'M GOING TO TALK TO HER! I'M GOING TO MAKE HER SEE I WANT TO TALK TO HER ABOUT HER PROBLEM..

AH!

JU.. JUDITH?

NO, I SAW HIM WITH JUDITH ABOUT FIVE MINUTES AGO!

AH!

ACTUALLY, HE WASN'T AT PRACTICE.

HE WENT TO THE LIBRARY TO STUDY.

AH, THANKS

AND THEY WERE GOING THAT WAY!

SHE'S OUR CLASS REPRESENTATIVE.

SMALL GIRL, LONG HAIR.

ABOUT THIS TALL

OH!

THEN MAYBE IT'S NOT THE BEST TIME TO TALK TO HER...

IF GWYN'S WITH A GIRL FROM HER CLASS..

WAIT, WHAT'S SHE DOING..?

NO!

HEY, WHY AM I HIDING?

LEAN

THERE SHE IS.. WITH THE GIRL FROM HER CLASS

GWYN!!

WHAT COULD THEY POSSIBLY BE TALKING ABOUT ? SOMETHING ABOUT CLASSES? ARE THEY FRIENDS?

AND WHY ARE THEY TALKING IN THE STAIRWELL?

I CAN'T HEAR A THING.

NO ONE EVER USES THOSE STAIRS. THEY GO DOWN TO THE BASEMENT ..

# Chapter 6
# Distrust

HELLOOO?

FLAP

FLAP

AZAMI?

OH!

SIGH

GIVEN YOUR STATE, CAN I ASSUME THAT YOU HAVEN'T SPOKEN TO YOUR PRINCE YET?

HE DOESN'T GO TO BASKETBALL PRACTICE ANYMORE...

RIGHT. AND THESE DAYS IT'S TOTALLY IMPOSSIBLE TO COMMUNICATE WITH SOMEONE UNLESS THEY'RE STANDING RIGHT IN FRONT OF YOU!

HAVEN'T YOU HEARD OF THE INTERNET?

GASP!!

SORRY, I...

AZAMI!

HUH!

OKAY! IT'S A PLAN! I'M GOING TO GET ON IT RIGHT AWAY! THANKS!

UH... YEAH?

OF COURSE! THAT'S IT!

PAC

YOU'RE. YOU'RE WELCOME

THAT PIG-TAILED PAIN IN MY ASS IS GOING TO REGRET THIS!

GRRR

UM. I WAS SUGGESTING... THAT YOU GO TALK TO OWYN...

THAT JUDITH!



CUT THAT OUT! YOU'RE BEING RIDICULOUS. I'M SURE HE HAS HIS REASONS!

MEN.. YOU KNOW.

THAT'S THE REAL PROBLEM.

WHAT?

THE LAST TIME I SAW HIM, I ASKED HIM WHAT THE PROBLEM WAS, AND HE THREW ME IN THE CORNER LIKE AN OLD SOCK. IF HE'S ALREADY SICK OF ME AND THAT'S WHY HE WAS FOOLING AROUND WITH THAT LITTLE GNOME AND I CALL HIM, AND HE BREAKS UP WITH ME OFFICIALLY... IT WOULD BREAK MY HEART! AND I'M WAY TOO YOUNG FOR THAT!

I I WOULDN'T DARE!

YOU DON'T HAVE ANY REAL EVIDENCE.

YOU'RE NOT EVEN SURE THEY REALLY KISSED, ARE YOU?

(LIKE IN EPISODE 7 OF KURI ON ICE.)

NO!! YES...

MAYBE...

THERE! YOU SEE?

C'MON, BUCK UP AND GO HAVE A SERIOUS CONVERSATION TOGETHER!

PAT PAT

YOU'RE RIGHT...

I'M SUCH A JERK!

I WON'T HOLD IT AGAINST YOU.

YOU KNOW EXACTLY WHAT I WANT TO DISCUSS!

UHHH NOT REALLY

WHAT THE HELL WERE YOU DOING GETTING JIGGY WITH GWYN?!

WHY DON'T YOU GO ASK GWYN YOURSELF?

WHAT WERE YOU DO... THAT STA... WHAT WEA... LKING ABOU... YOU TRYI... MY BO... AT A...

UH...

"GETTING JIGGY"? REALLY? WHAT IS THIS, 1985?

HUH?

HEH

WE HAVE TO TALK!

SMACK

I'M NOT FOOLING AROUND..

HUH?

HEY! YOU!

OOF!

I'M GUESSING YOU'RE AZAMI?

HEH...

THAT'S RIGHT! I'M GWYN'S GIRLFRIEND!

GREEK...

AND WHAT DID YOU WANT TO DISCUSS?

WHY NOT?

I, I CAN'T..

BECAUSE!

YOU'RE AFRAID OF BEING DUMPED AGAIN - PERMANENTLY THIS TIME?

YOU CAN'T JUST BELIEVE THAT SHE'S MAKING HER OWN DECISIONS?

BUT NO..

YOU THREATENED TO EXPOSE HER! THAT EXPLAINS EVERYTHING!!

YOU'RE LYING! WHY WOULDN'T SHE WANT TO TALK TO ME?!

GWYN DOESN'T WANT TO TALK TO YOU!

ALL RIGHT, I'LL TELL YOU...

BECAUSE THERE ARE THINGS THAT NO ONE WANTS TO SAY OR HEAR..

OUT OF FEAR THAT SPEAKING THE WORDS WILL MAKE THEM EVEN MORE REAL.

NO!!

W-WHAT DO YOU MEAN "AGAIN"?

HAVE YOU ASKED YOURSELF...

"WHY IS SHE AVOIDING ME?"

"WHY DID SHE CONFIDE IN THAT GIRL?"

WHAT..?

YOU.. YOU KNOW ABOUT GWYN?!

SUFFERING?!

HUH?!

SUFF..

LIKE CINDERELLA?

OR...

OR WORSE!

COME TO THIS ADDRESS AFTER SCHOOL, AND YOU'LL SEE!

...

HM.

THWACK

AAAAHH-HHHH!!!!

CIAO!

JUDITH.

AND THAT'S WHAT'S HAPPENING WITH GWYN..

IF SHE TALKS TO YOU ABOUT HER PROBLEMS THEN SHE'LL HAVE TO FINALLY FACE UP TO THEM IN THE REAL WORLD.

I WASN'T EXPECTING YOU TO!

I'M NOT GOING TO TELL YOU WHAT IT'S ALL ABOUT!

ALL OF THE SUFFERING I'VE PUT HER THROUGH RECENTLY...

BUT I COULD SHOW YOU...

GWYN, YOU SAID..

OKAY, FINE. I'LL TRY IT!

OH, NO... SERIOUSLY, YOU KNOW, I CAN'T... BASKETBALL..

NAIL POLISH?!

TWO MINUTES LATER

HMM..

SME BLACK JR. NAIL POLISH FOR MANICURES

LOOK, JUDY!

I HAVE POLISH EVERYWHERE EXCEPT ON MY NAILS!!

SERIOUSLY - EVERYWHERE!

THAT'S IMPOSSIBLE!

AH!

SWISH

IT'S STICKY! AND IT'S DISGUSTINGLY SWEET!!

LIP GLOSS IS WORSE THAN LIPSTICK!

GWYN, YOU'RE TOO FUNNY!

YOU REALLY WANT TO KEEP GOING?

AHAHA

YES!

I TOLD YOU I WANTED TO TRY EVERYTHING! WHAT'S NEXT?

HAHAHAHAHA!

OKAY, THEN! THAT'S A NO ON THE GLOSS.

YOU SHOWED ME THAT IT WAS TIME TO GO BACK TO BEING THE REAL ME..

LOOK AT IT AS A CHANCE TO SHOW THE WORLD THE REAL GWYN INSTEAD OF "GWYN THE BOY"..

I'M BEGINNING TO TAKE CONTROL OF THE THINGS THAT HAVE BEEN PARALYZING ME!

BUT NOW, THANKS TO YOU...

AND TO EMERGE EVEN STRONGER!

WHY DIDN'T YOU TELL AZAMI ABOUT ALL THIS?

GWYN?

I ALREADY TOLD YOU.

WHEN SHE ASKED FOR ME AT THE NURSE'S OFFICE...

I COMPLETELY PANICKED. I DIDN'T KNOW WHAT TO SAY...

BUT

I DIDN'T NEED WORDS..

TO UNDERSTAND YOUR HEART

AND SHE STILL CAN'T SEE YOUR REAL FEELINGS..

YOU'RE DOING ALL THIS FOR HER...

BOOM

BOOM

BOOM

...

THAT WE CAN STAY TOGETHER NO MATTER WHAT

I WANT TO GET STRONG ENOUGH THAT AZAMI AND I...

?!

TURN

WHAT AN IDIOT...

AZAMI DOESN'T KNOW.

FINISHED!

PERFECT! I THINK IT'S TIME!

TIME FOR WHAT?

HOW LUCKY SHE IS TO HAVE YOU.

SO YOU CAN TALK WITH GWYN...
YOU TWO CAN'T AVOID EACH OTHER FOREVER.
I'M ONLY SPEEDING UP THE INEVITABLE...
WHY?
WHY WOULD YOU WANT US TO GET BACK TOGETHER?
I DON'T UNDERSTAND..

C'MON IN. YOU'RE RIGHT ON TIME!
GEEK..
WHAT THE HELL..
KAORU!
AM I DOING AT YOUR HOUSE?!
HEY!
YES! FOR TEA TIME, OF COURSE!
DO YOU PREFER TEA OR COFFEE?
ON TIME FOR WHAT? WERE YOU WAITING FOR ME..?
I NEVER EVEN SAID I WAS COMING..
WHY DID YOU ASK ME TO COME OVER?
STOP SCREWING WITH MY HEAD!

STOP ACTING LIKE YOU'RE THE ONLY ONE WHO UNDERSTANDS HER..

STOP IT!

HAHA!

IF YOU COULD SEE YOUR FACE!

PURE JEALOUSY!

YOU...

YOU'RE MAD AT ME!

DON'T BE SO SUSPICIOUS!

THERE, THERE!

PAT

WHEN SHE FINALLY TRUSTED ME...

COME IN.

GWYN'S A FRIEND I JUST WANT WHAT'S BEST FOR HER. THAT'S AL...

?

IT'S TRUE THAT I'VE HELPED HER A LOT, BUT

SHE REALLY LEANED ON ME - IT'S KIND OF CUTE..

# Chapter 7
# Moment of Truth

BUT I NEVER FORCED GWYN TO DO ANYTHING SHE DIDN'T WANT TO.
IN ALL OF THIS..
IT'S SO EASY TO MAKE ME THE VILLAIN..!
YOU SHOULD ASK YOURSELF WHO YOU SHOULD REALLY BE MAD AT...

SO...
YOU STILL WANT TO TALK TO GWYN?

BUT I CAN SEE THROUGH HER GAME! IF SHE WANTS ME TO GET MAD AT GWYN, SHE CAN-
TAP
THAT GIRL PISSES ME OFF! SHE'S LIKE A SNEAKY CAT TRYING TO INVADE MY TERRITORY!
HISS HISS
GRRR..

STARING CONTEST!

AZAMI!

WHAT ARE YOU DOING HERE?!

THAT'S MY LINE! AND... AND SINCE WHEN DO YOU LOOK LIKE A PRINCESS?!

WHISPER WHISPER

JUDY, DID YOU INVITE HER OVER?! WHEN I TOLD YOU EARLIER THAT I WAS TAKING CONTROL OF THE SITUATION, THAT DIDN'T MEAN THAT I WAS READY TO EXPLAIN IT ALL TO HER!

WELL, NOW THAT YOU'RE ON THE EDGE OF THE CLIFF, ALL YOU HAVE TO DO IS TAKE A DEEP BREATH AND JUMP!

EH?

OH...

AZAMI'S SO MEAN! YOU MADE YOURSELF ALL PRETTY FOR HER, AND HERE SHE IS YELLING AT YOU!

EH?

JUDY!

WHAT ARE YOU DOING?

I'M NOT GOING TO HANG OUT HERE ALL DAY..

WHAAAAT?!!

GWYN?!

YOU CAN FINALLY HAVE AN HONEST DISCUSSION LIKE BIG GIRLS!
IF IT HELPS, I CAN LEAVE YOU TWO ALONE...
TAKE YOUR TIME!
CLACK
HUH?!

YOU CAN FINALLY HAVE AN HONEST DISCUSSION LIKE BIG GIRLS!

IF IT HELPS, I CAN LEAVE YOU TWO ALONE...

TAKE YOUR TIME!

CLACK

HUH?!



UM.

GWYN...

GWYN, IF YOU'RE GOING TO BREAK UP WITH ME ,,

BUT I SENT YOU A TEXT... I NEVER HEARD BACK FROM YOU!

W-WHY?! GWYN, YOU HAVEN'T SAID A WORD TO ME IN TWO WEEKS - NO TEXTS, NOTHING!

HUH? WHY WOULD I WANT TO BREAK UP WITH YOU?!

SHOW ME YOUR PHONE!

NO! YOU DIDN'T

I NEVER SAW YOUR MESSAGE, I PROMISE . I MUST HAVE SAID OK TO YOUR PREVIOUS TEXT BUT IT DIDN'T SEND...

IT SENT AFTER I SENT YOU THE MESSAGE...

NOW I UNDERSTAND.

DAMN PHONE!

Gwyn

"SORRY I BEH... LIKE A JERK YESTERDAY I'M GOING THROU... ROUGH PATCH A... NEED SOME TIME TO GET MY HEAD STRAIGHT HOPE IT UNDERSTAND I LOVE YOU. GWYN"

"OK"

SEE?

YOUR TEXT THE NEXT DAY JUST SAID OK...



I THOUGHT YOU WERE UPSET, BUT UNDERSTOOD THAT...

I NEEDED TIME TO HEAL. I WAS AFRAID THAT TALKING TO YOU AGAIN SO SOON WOULD JUST WIPE OUT ALL THE PROGRESS I'D MADE...

AND THAT I'D HURT YOU EVEN MORE, AZAMI.

AND I WAS ALSO AFRAID...

TO TELL YOU THAT...

I'M GOING TO BE TRANSFERRING AT THE START OF THE NEW SCHOOL YEAR IN SEPTEMBER..

WHAT?!

MOST OF ALL, I WAS AFRAID THAT YOU WOULDN'T WANT A LONG-DISTANCE RELATIONSHIP..

AND THAT YOU'D WANT TO BREAK UP..

WELL...

JUST BECAUSE OF THAT?!

I UNDER-STAND, BUT..

BUT I THOUGHT THAT—

I CAN'T KEEP PRETENDING I'M A BOY.

*WHAAAT?!!* WE WON'T BE IN THE SAME SCHOOL ANYMORE?!

I TRIED EVERYTHING, EVEN PUTTING MY HEALTH IN DANGER..

BUT I CAN'T GO BACK TO THAT

*I'LL HAVE TO LEAVE MY FRIENDS, MAYBE EVEN GIVE UP BASKETBALL.*

BEING A SENIOR AT A NEW SCHOOL, IT'S GOING TO BE HARD TO FIT IN..

MOST OF ALL, I WAS AFRAID THAT YOU WOULDN'T WANT A LONG-DISTANCE RELATIONSHIP..

AND THAT YOU'D WANT TO BREAK UP..

WELL...

JUST BECAUSE OF THAT?!

I UNDER-STAND, BUT..

BUT I THOUGHT THAT—

I CAN'T KEEP PRETENDING I'M A BOY.

*WHAAAT?!!* WE WON'T BE IN THE SAME SCHOOL ANYMORE?!

I TRIED EVERYTHING, EVEN PUTTING MY HEALTH IN DANGER..

BUT I CAN'T GO BACK TO THAT

*I'LL HAVE TO LEAVE MY FRIENDS, MAYBE EVEN GIVE UP BASKETBALL.*

BEING A SENIOR AT A NEW SCHOOL, IT'S GOING TO BE HARD TO FIT IN..

I LOVE YOU! AND THE ONLY DISTANCE THAT WORRIES ME...

IS THE ONE YOU PUT BETWEEN US WHEN THINGS AREN'T GOING WELL!

YOU SHOULD NEVER WORRY ABOUT HOW I FEEL...

OR YOUR ABILITY TO MAKE FRIENDS AT YOUR NEW SCHOOL...

HUH?

BUT I FEEL A LITTLE BETTER...

AH!! NO, SORRY, I...

I DIDN'T MEAN THAT IT'S NOT MAJOR!

FLAP

FLAP

NO! I...

I WAS AFRAID THAT YOU WERE SICK OF ME AND WANTED TO BREAK UP (AND THAT WAS WHY YOU WERE FLIRTING WITH *HER*...)

I DON'T WANT TO BREAK UP EITHER!

GWYN!!

YOU'VE SPENT EVERY MINUTE TOGETHER EVER SINCE SHE KISSED YOU IN THE STAIRWELL!

GWYN! YOU DIDN'T JUST TELL HER WHAT WAS HAPPENING!

WHAT ABOUT *MY* ROLE AS YOUR GIRLFRIEND?!

W-WHAT ARE YOU TALKING ABOUT?

SHE NEVER KISSED ME. WHY WOULD YOU THINK THAT?

*OOPS, I SAID IT!*

I SAW YOU. THE DAY AFTER OUR FIGHT



IF YOU PUT IT LIKE THAT.

UH... DON'T FORGET TO BREATHE

BECAUSE YOU'RE ADORABLE AND SUPER COOL! YOU THINK GOING TO A NEW SCHOOL WILL STOP ME FROM SEEING YOU EVERY DAY? NO WAY! WE'LL TRY TO SEE EACH OTHER CONSTANTLY! AND WHEN WE CAN'T, I'LL TEXT YOU AND CALL YOU! AND WE'LL SEE EACH OTHER EVEN MORE ON THE WEEKENDS! NO WAY AM I GIVING UP MY DAILY DOSE OF GWYN! I WON'T LET ANYTHING KEEP ME...

FROM...

YES!

YES! YES!

I SEE! BREATHE, I GOT IT...

WELL...

YOU SEE...

HUFF

HUFF

HUFF

NO! NO!

IN HER ROLE AS CLASS REPRESENTATIVE...

IT'S NOT WHAT YOU THINK. SHE ASKED ME ABOUT IT BECAUSE...

BUT YOU REALLY SHOULD HAVE TALKED TO ME ABOUT EVERYTHING! NOT TO THAT JUDITH GIRL!

!!

OH!

"GWYN THE BOY" ISN'T ME...

I THINK SHE REALLY WANTED TO HELP ME FIND MYSELF...

IT WASN'T BLACKMAIL...

WELL, MAYBE A LITTLE!

WHENEVER I WAS WEARING MY SCHOOL UNIFORM AND I LOOKED IN THE MIRROR...

I JUST SAW AN IMPOSTOR..

FOR A LONG TIME...

BUT I SWEAR IT WASN'T THAT!

WHAT?! I DON'T KNOW WHAT YOU SAW...

SHE OFFERED TO HELP ME GET MY GRADES BACK UP...

NOTHING ELSE!

JUDITH IS JUST A FRIEND!

AND YOU DRESSED LIKE THAT BECAUSE JUDITH BLACKMAILED YOU?

OF COURSE, YOU STILL LOOK GREAT! ESPECIALLY SINCE YOU'RE WEARING THE DRESS I GAVE YOU... BUT THIS JUDITH..

IN EXCHANGE

SHE WANTED ME TO TRY ON SOME DIFFERENT CLOTHES AND MAKE-UP..

SHE TALKED TO MY TEACHERS TO GET EXTENSIONS SO I COULD TURN IN MY HOMEWORK LATE..

AZAMI... YOU KNOW THAT I LOVE YOU?

AH! Y-YES.

KISS

ON THE OTHER HAND, THE PRINCESS LOOK WAS DEFINITELY JUDY'S IDEA. SHE WANTED TO SURPRISE YOU SINCE SHE SET ALL THIS UP.

*TO SURPRISE ME?! ARE YOU KIDDING? SHE WANTED TO THROW ME OFF. SHE KNEW I'D BE HELPLESS ONCE I SAW... THAT!*

*IF I'M GOING TO MAKE A NEW START...*

*I WANT IT TO BE AS ME!*

I'M GONNA GO CHANGE...

OKAY!

SCRATCH

SCRATCH

BUT THE WIG ITCHES SOMETHING AWFUL...

CLEARLY! IT WAS JUST A MISUNDERSTANDING! IT'LL TAKE MORE THAN THAT TO BREAK US UP!

SO?

?

LOOKS LIKE EVERYTHING WORKED OUT BETWEEN YOU TWO... IT WASN'T TOO DIFFICULT TO MAKE JP..

AND I THOUGHT IT WOULD TURN OUT BADLY AND ONE OF YOU WOULD END UP BREAKING IT OFF.. AND THEN I'D HAVE GWYN ALL TO MYSELF!

THAT WAS THE PLAN!

...

OOH... TOO BAD!

WHAT THE HELL?!

OH!

AM I INTERRUPTING ANYTHING?

HEY! GWYN!

HMM?

I'M GOING TO GET CHANGED!

HEE HEE ♥

SHHHH! THAT'S ENOUGH, JUDITH!

WHAT ABOUT THAT FOURTH KISS...?

NO, NOT AT ALL! AZAMI AND I WERE JUST WORKING THINGS OUT

AH... YES, I SEE. THAT'S GOOD.

HOW LONG HAS SHE BEEN THERE?!

I JUST CAN'T FIGURE JUDITH OUT

BUT STILL, SHE REALLY HELPED GWYN, AND AFTER ALL, IF THEY ARE JUST FRIENDS

I HAVE TO MAKE AN EFFORT FOR GWYN!

SEE YOU SOON, PRINCESS!

JUST KNOW I'M GOING TO BE THERE!

I WON'T GIVE UP!

IS THIS A DECLARATION OF WAR?!

BUT SHE ALREADY HAS SOMEONE! (IN THIS CASE, ME!)

GWYN IS SO CUTE THAT ANYONE COULD FALL FOR HER!

COME TO THINK OF IT

HEE HEE

YOU ARE NOT! I'M SURE OF IT!

EEH?!

JUUUST KIDDING!

HA HA HA

OH...

I KNOW SHE'S ALREADY IN LOVE WITH SOMEONE...

BUT...

THAT'S NOT GOING TO STOP ME FROM DOING EVERYTHING I CAN TO BE CLOSE TO HER.

AND ONE DAY, IF YOU HAPPEN TO LOSE HER...

WITH YOU...

# Chapter 8
# Summer Time

IT'S THE LAST DAY OF MY FRESHMAN YEAR..

DONG DING

LAST BELL!

AND THE START OF SUMMER VACATION!

THE END OF THE TERM GAVE ME A LITTLE TASTE OF WHAT MY "LONG-DISTANCE RELATIONSHIP" WITH GWYN WILL BE LIKE NEXT YEAR.

YOU CAN COME WITH IF YOU WANT!

BUT-WHAT IS IT?

WHAT'S JAPAN?

AND JULY MEANS JAPAN!!

OH, YEAH! I CAN'T WAIT

NO...

SO, AZAMI! ARE YOU GOING TO STAY PLANTED IN FRONT OF THE SCHOOL ALL SUMMER?

HOW IRONIC.. BEING ALLERGIC TO FLOWERS IN A SHOUJO MANGA...

SNIFF

SNIFF

OOHH

AS I WAS SAYING..

TO GO TO ANOTHER SCHOOL

EVER SINCE GWYN ANNOUNCED THAT SHE WAS LEAVING...

SHE HASN'T HAD A MOMENT TO HERSELF! ALL OF HER FRIENDS, THE GIRLS IN HER GRADE, HER BASKETBALL TEAMMATES...

WOOD!

GWYN!!

WHYYY?

GWYN, NO!!

IT CAN'T BE!

IT WAS REALLY TOUGH FOR HER TO SAY GOODBYE TO ALL HER FRIENDS (WITHOUT KNOWING IF SHE'LL EVER SEE THEM AGAIN AND RISK EXPOSING HER SECRET)...

THEY EVEN THREW HER A GOODBYE PARTY AFTER HER LAST BASKETBALL PRACTICE!

EVERYBODY WANTS TO SPEND AS MUCH TIME AS POSSIBLE WITH HER BEFORE SHE LEAVES! SHE WAS REALLY TOUCHED..

BUT NOW THAT THE SUMMER VACATION IS FINALLY HERE...

GWYN AND I HAVEN'T HAD MUCH TIME TO SEE EACH OTHER!

TIP TIP

AND THE TRANSFER PAPERWORK...

BETWEEN FINALS...

UH.

JUDITH!

HEE HEE

THANKS. YOU TOO!

THAT VOICE!!

HAVE A GREAT VACATION, AZAMI!

GRRR

NYARK NYARK

BEING NICE TO HER WHEN ALL SHE WANTS TO DO IS STEAL GWYN FROM ME MAKES ME WANT TO PUKE! THANK GOODNESS SHE'S OUT OF MY LIFE FOR THE NEXT TWO MONTHS!!

AND TO START THINGS OFF RIGHT, SHE INVITED ME TO SPEND THE WHOLE WEEKEND AT HER HOUSE!

TADAAA!

AT THE BEACH.

SHE CAN COUNT ON ME TO LIFT HER SPIRITS!

TAKING SUNSET WALKS.

WE'RE GOING TO SPEND ALL OUR TIME TOGETHER! THE BEST SUMMER VACATION OF OUR LIVES!

SOMETHING WORTHY OF A SHOJO MANGA.



AND IT'S ABOUT 100 DEGREES...

HOT..

AS I WALK TOWARDS MY DESTINY!

MY DESTINY..

BUT IF IT'S JUST BECAUSE "HE" IS A "SHE"... WE ARE VERY RELIEVED!

?!

WE THOUGHT YOU MIGHT BE DATING SOMEONE, BUT SINCE YOU WEREN'T TELLING US ANYTHING, WE JUST THOUGHT

!!

AH... THAT'S IT! I WAS WONDERING WHY YOU STOPPED TALKING ABOUT THIS "GWYN" GUY.

A FEW DAYS AGO..

EH?!

THAT HE MIGHT BE A THUG, OR A DRUG DEALER...

OR IN A CULT!

MOM!!

I'M NOT SURE HOW ALL THE "PHYSICAL" THINGS WORK BETWEEN GIRLS, BUT MAKE SURE TO STAY SAFE ANYWAY!

THEY REALLY TOOK IT IN STRIDE...

I HOPE IT GOES AS WELL WITH HER PARENTS..

MY DESTINY IS MAKING ME A LITTLE (A LOT) NERVOUS!

DO HER PARENTS EVEN REALIZE SHE HAS A GIRLFRIEND?

SLEEPING IN THE SAME ROOM WITH GWYN.

I HAVE TO MAKE A GOOD IMPRESSION!

MEETING GWYN'S FAMILY!

THE ONE CONDITION FOR SPENDING THE WEEKEND WITH GWYN..

WAS THAT I HAD TO TELL MY PARENTS THAT I WAS GOING OUT WITH HER.

"DAD, MOM, I HAVE A GIRLFRIEND"

THEY USED TO ROCK ME TO SLEEP READING STORIES ABOUT "PRINCE CHARMING" AND I HAD TO TELL THEM THAT I'D FOUND A PRINCESS INSTEAD!

I SHOULD HAVE CALLED GWYN FIRST! PLEASE LET IT BE HER ANSWERING THE DOOR!!

SHOOT!

DONG

DING

O

OH!

AHHH...

HELLO!

B-BUT... NO ONE EVER TOLD ME THAT A MALE VERSION OF GWYN REALLY EXISTED!

CLICK

GET A HOLD OF YOURSELF! THAT HAS TO BE HER OLDER BROTHER! I'VE GOT TO MAKE A GOOD IMPRESSION!

OH. Y-YES!

YOU'RE AZAMI, RIGHT?

DON'T BE AFRAID. I DON'T BITE, YOU KNOW!

NO, I'M... I'M JUST SURPRISED BY HOW MUCH YOU LOOK LIKE HER!

HA HA HA. I-I'M SURE.

TOO CLOSE!! TOO CLOSE!! TOO CLOSE!! TOO CLOSE!!

RIGHT? EVERYBODY TELLS US THAT OF COURSE, I'M THE ORIGINAL MODEL! EVERYTHING SHE KNOWS, SHE LEARNED FROM HER BIG BROTHER!

ZACHARY!! STOP BOTHERING HER!

OOPS

WHAT ABOUT YOUR PARENTS?

AH.

THEY AREN'T GOING TO BE HERE THIS WEEKEND. THEY WERE CALLED AWAY ON URGENT BUSINESS FOR THEIR JOBS. SORRY YOU WON'T BE ABLE TO MEET THEM...

PHEW! ONE LESS THING TO WORRY ABOUT!

SIGH

SO YOU'LL BE ALL ALONE!

HUH?!

I DON'T LIVE HERE ANYMORE I JUST CAME BY BECAUSE I WANTED TO MEET YOU IN PERSON.

WE COULD STAY

I'M GOING TO BE ALONE WITH GWYN ALL WEEKEND?!

WHAT?! D-DOES THAT MEAN...

JUST TRYING TO LIGHTEN THE MOOD!

I ONLY HAD THE BEST OF INTENTIONS!

I TOLD YOU SHE MIGHT FEEL A LITTLE UNCOMFORTABLE, AND YOU GO OUT OF YOUR WAY TO UPSET HER?!

N-NO, IT'S FINE.

FLAP

FLAP

OH! THANKS!

YOUR HAIR LOOKS NICE!

WHACK!

SPAF

YEAH, RIGHT! SURE YOU DID...

AND MY BROTHER, ZACHARY!

I WOULD LIKE YOU TO MEET MY SISTER-IN-LAW, IDINA!

N-NICE TO MEET YOU! I'M AZAMI TAKAHASHI! OH, RIGHT, YOU ALREADY KNEW THAT! THANK YOU FOR THE WARM WELCOME!!

I'M SO HAPPY TO FINALLY MEET YOU!

I MEAN. .

THAT I'M A GIRL..

GWYN. YOUR PARENTS KNOW ABOUT JS?

THEY KNEW THAT EVEN BEFORE WE STARTED DATING.

HEE HEE

YOU TALKED TO THEM ABOUT IT BEFORE?! DID YOU ALREADY KNOW YOU LIKED GIRLS?

NO. NOT BEFORE FALLING IN LOVE WITH YOU!

REALLY?



WHAT?! NO, WE'RE— I'M—

AND YOU DON'T HAVE TO THANK ME! I'M YOUR BROTHER-IN-LAW NOW! IT'S MY JOB TO GIVE YOU TWO SOME "PRIVATE TIME"!

WE'RE OFF! IT WAS GREAT MEETING YOU!

OH! ME TOO!

HUH? DID YOU HEAR ME?

NO, THEY'RE BIG GIRLS, THEY'LL BE FINE THEY CAN MANAGE BY THEMSELVES FOR THE WEEKEND!

MOM AND DAD ARE FINE WITH IT!

DON'T CALL US UNLESS IT'S AN EMERGENCY!

CLACK

STAY COOL, LITTLE SISTER!

WHAT?! SHE KNEW?!

SHEESH. FINALLY ALONE!

HAHA.. HE WAS JUST KIDDING.

MY BROTHER'S SWEET, BUT HE CAN BE A PAIN IN THE ASS!

IT'S EXACTLY LIKE I THOUGHT IT WOULD BE!

HUMP

NO! NO, NOTHING!

THIS IS YOUR BEDROOM?!

THAT'S RIGHT

NO. NOT AT ALL! THEY TOOK IT REALLY WELL!

YEAH! EXCEPT THAT MY MOTHER WOULDN'T STOP GRILLING ME ABOUT IT!

REALLY?

REALLY? WHAT WAS SHE ASKING?

OH, YOU KNOW, JUST QUESTIONS.

I'M IN GWYN'S BEDROOM!

SO? WHAT DO YOU WANT TO DO NOW?

I'D LOVE TO JUST HANG OUT HERE, BUT I KNOW THAT GWYN WOULD LIKE TO..

GO TO THE PARK!

IT'S BEAUTIFUL OUTSIDE TODAY

NOT EVERYONE IS SO LUCKY WITH THEIR FAMILIES..

THEY ALWAYS MADE SURE THAT WE FELT COMFORTABLE EXPRESSING OURSELVES ABOUT THAT ..

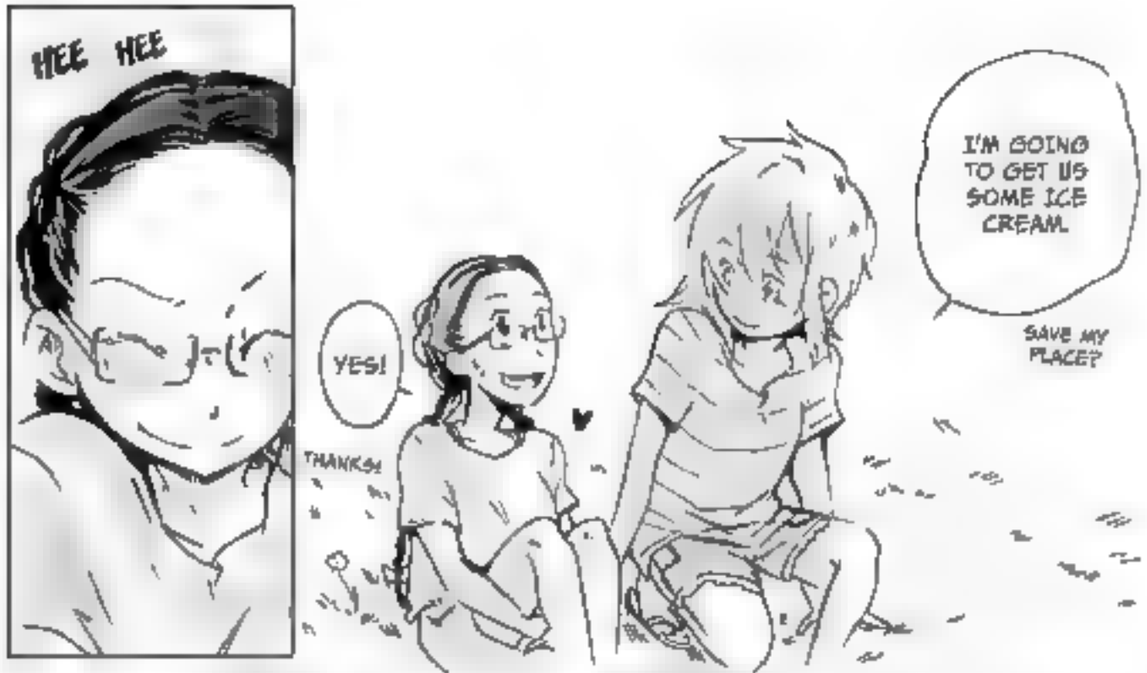
MY PARENTS ARE VERY ACCEPTING AND OPEN ABOUT ALL SEXUALITIES.

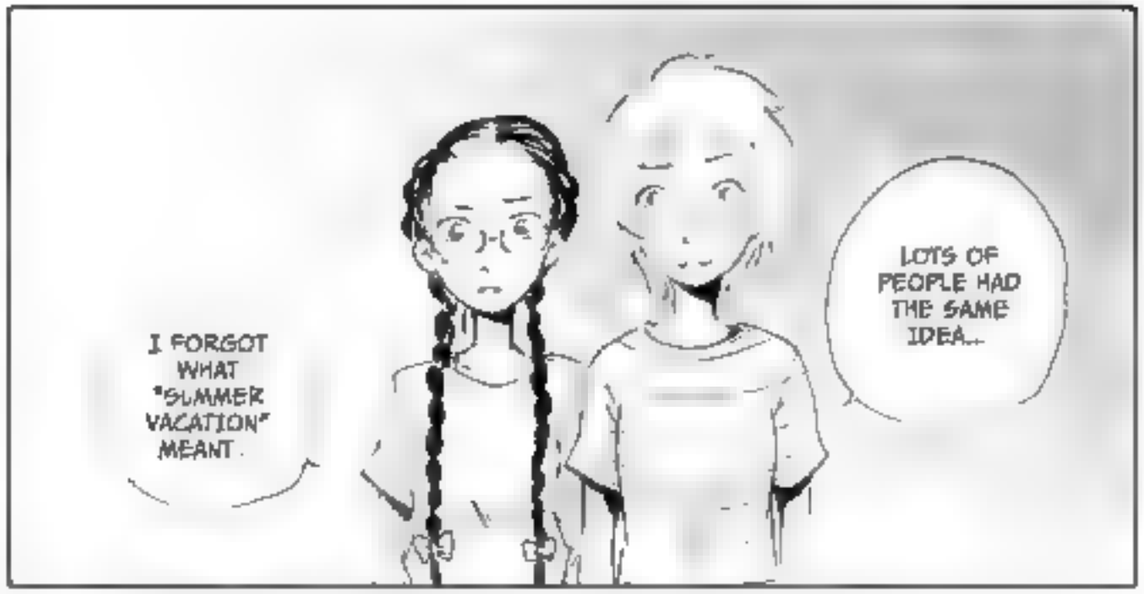
BUT IT WAS NEVER A TABOO..

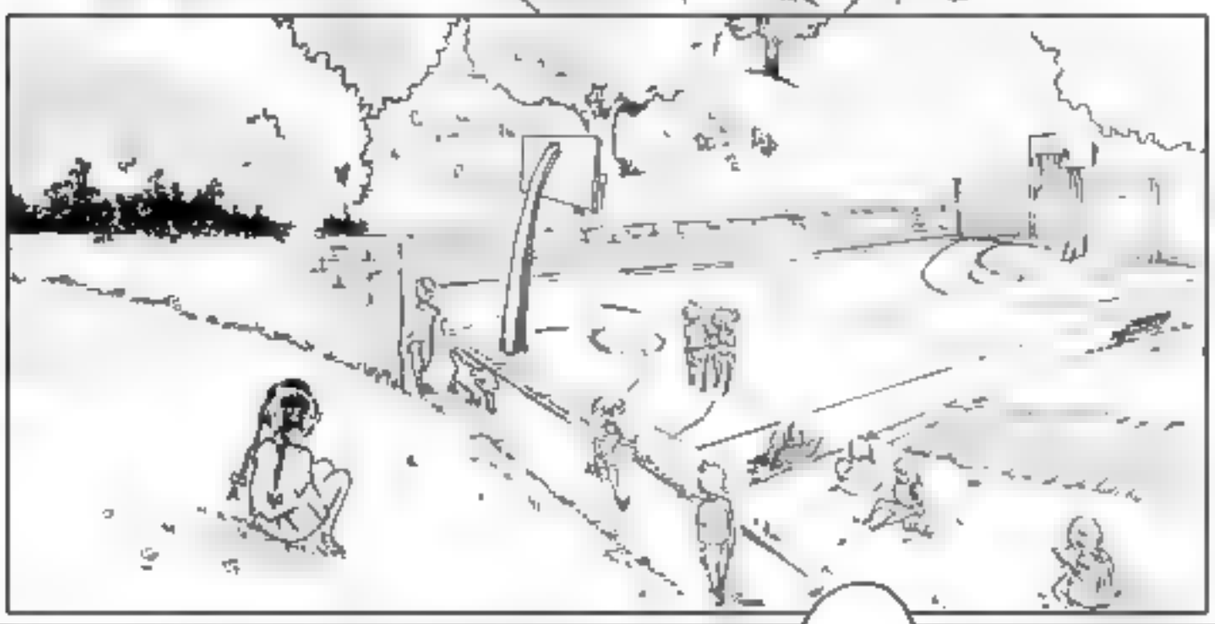
?

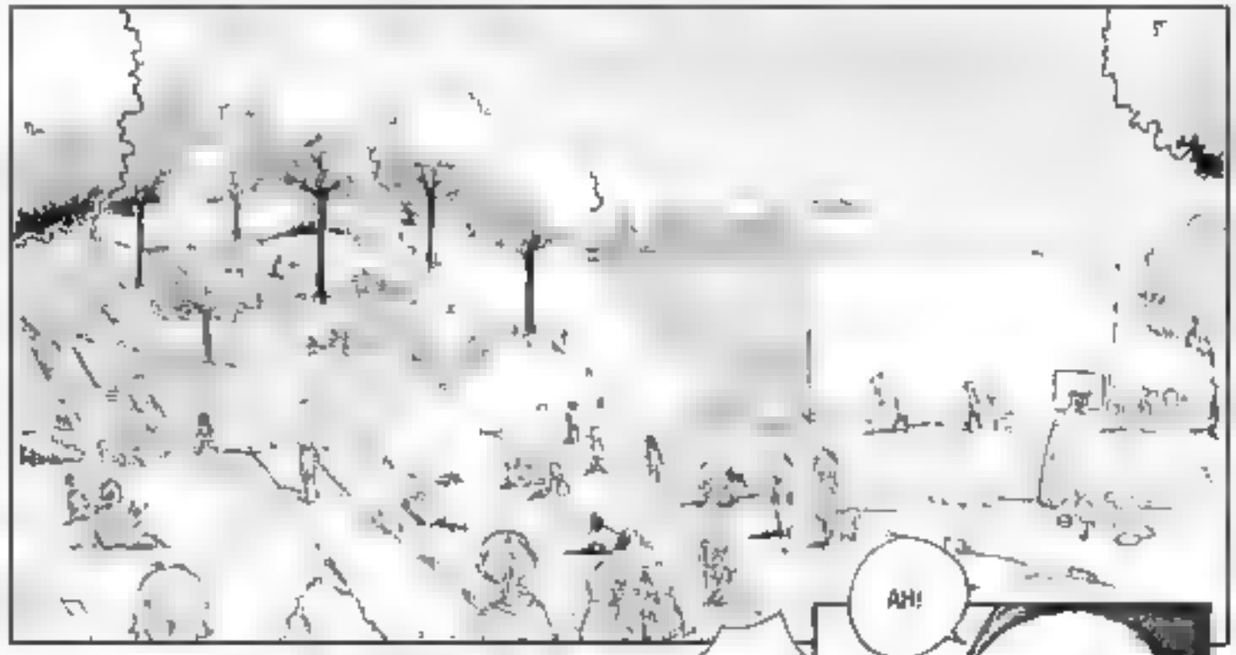
AZAMI!

ARE YOU ASKING ME THAT BECAUSE IT WENT BADLY WITH YOUR PARENTS?


HEE HEE
YES!
THANKS!
I'M GOING TO GET US SOME ICE CREAM.
SAVE MY PLACE?


I FORGOT WHAT "SUMMER VACATION" MEANT.
LOTS OF PEOPLE HAD THE SAME IDEA...




AH!
THERE!
A LITTLE SQUARE OF GRASS!
Hor
TAP
TAP
TAP

I HAVE A FEELING.
THAT THIS IS GOING TO BE EPIC!

UH...
EXCUSE ME!
SWISH
I ALREADY REGRET WHAT I'M ABOUT TO DO...
SIGH
SHOVE OFF, SHRIMP!
AS LONG AS HE DOESN'T HIT THEM...
WHACK
CAW
CAW
AAAA-HHHH!!
SWISH
AZAMI..?
AH..
SHOCK
HEY! GIVE THAT BACK!!
FINE! WE'LL GIVE YOU THE COURT, BUT JUST GIVE US OUR BALL BACK!
JUMP
MMMM
NO, YOU SEE...
WE NEED THE BALL SO WE CAN PLAY...
HA!
TAP
UNCOOL! IT'S MINE!
I SHOULDN'T GET INVOLVED... HE'S JUST SCREWING WITH THEM A LITTLE...
PWIP
...
THEN COME GET IT!
GRR...
HEH HEH

WHAT THE.. ?

AH!

GWYN!

WHO'S THAT?!



HEY! WHAT DO YOU THINK YOU'RE DOING?!

AH!

GULAH...

WE'VE GOT COMPANY..

GWWW..

TAP

TAP

SPLAT

# Chapter 9
# Overshadowing

AZAMI... ARE YOU OKAY? WHAT DID THEY DO TO YOU?!
BUT...
WE DIDN'T DO ANYTHING! IT WAS HER!!
GRAB
GASP
GWYN..
TAP
TAP
G-GWYN! WAIT!
THEY DIDN'T KNOCK ME DOWN!
HOW'S THAT?

IT SURE IS...
HERBAL TEA IS SO GOOD.
OLD LADIES

BUT... IS YOUR KNEE OKAY?

OH...YEAH IT'S JUST A LITTLE SCRAPED UP, BUT IT DOESN'T REALLY HURT.

BUT AT LEAST I STOPPED YOU, BULLIES!

EHEHEH

THERE WERE PROBABLY EASIER WAYS.

YOU SURE DID...

THE GRASS WAS SLIPPERY, AND I FELL ALL BY MYSELF...

BUT...

I DON'T UNDERSTAND. WHY DID YOU GO OVER TO STOP THEM FROM PLAYING?

THEY WEREN'T PLAYING...

RIGHT! WHY DID YOU COME OVER AND BOTHER US WHEN WE WERE JUST PLAYING A FRIENDLY GAME OF BASKETBALL?

WHAT?!

AH... AAAAHHHH?!

SLIP

SMACK

BANG

IT'S NOT VERY FAIR PICKING ON LITTLE GIRLS!

HEY! CREEPS!

IT'S A LITTLE EMBARRASSING, BUT THIS IS WHAT HAPPENED.

OW...

NO, SERIOUSLY...?

...?

WHAT WAS THAT?

GOOD IDEA.

SINCE WE'RE FRIENDLY PEOPLE AND YOU SEEM TO WANT TO PLAY

BUT...

LET'S PLAY TWO-ON-TWO! THE WINNERS GET TO KEEP THE BALL AND THE COURT IS THEIRS ALL AFTERNOON!

YOU'RE SURE IT WAS THEIR BALL?

WELL... NO.

HEH HEH

HEH HEH

SURE!

OF COURSE! WE'RE ALL FRIENDS HERE!

HUH?! REALLY?!

IF YOU LET ME TEAM UP WITH ONE OF THESE KIDS FOR THE TWO-ON-TWO!

HUH!

JUST BECAUSE I HAVE A BALL DOESN'T MEAN I'M ANY GOOD!

AND THEN SHE GOT INVOLVED.

HEY! I SAW YOU PUSHING THEM AROUND!

AND WE'RE IN MIDDLE SCHOOL!!

NOT KINDERGARTEN!

UNTIL THESE KINDERGARTEN KIDS TRIED TO TAKE OUR BALL!

WHAT?! THAT'S A LIE! IT'S MY BALL!

IT WAS A COMPLETELY CHILL GAME

AND NOT OURS?

DO YOU HAVE ANY PROOF THAT IT'S "YOUR" BALL

REALLY SUPER MEGA COOL!!

YOU ALWAYS COVERED UP ALL MY MISTAKES! IT WAS

GOT IT!

I SUCKED. I KEPT LOSING THE BALL. BUT YOU...

NOD NOD

15 MINUTES LATER...

OOF..

ENOUGH! STOP SCREWING WITH US! YOU'RE A PRO.. WE NEVER HAD A CHANCE!

YOU'RE SURE YOU'VE HAD ENOUGH?

AND WE WERE HAVING SO MUCH FUN!

HUFF

HUFF

YOU DIDN'T EVEN BREAK A SWEAT!

COLLAPSE

SWEET!

WAY COOL!

OOOH, GWYN! YOU'RE SO CLASSY!

I'M... BEAT.. LET'S GO HOME!

OH?

DID YOU SAY ICE CREAM?

IT REALLY IS.. AND WE DIDN'T EVEN GET TO EAT OUR ICE CREAM..

AHEM

HEH NAH...

PHEW!

HOT OUT HERE, HUH?

GWYN REALLY GLOWS WHEN SHE TALKS ABOUT BASKETBALL..

THAT'S CUTE.

THAT HIGH SCHOOL HAS GREAT SPORTS PROGRAMS!

WE'D BE HAPPY TO SHARE THEM TO THANK YOU! ANYWAY, THERE'S PLENTY!

OUR DAD PACKED SOME ICE POPSICLES FOR US!

MEE HEE

DELICIOUS!

MY DAD'S A PRO WITH THE FROZEN TREATS!

YEAH! WE REALLY WANTED TO GO TO A SCHOOL WITH LOTS OF EXTRA-CURRICULARS!

OH! WE'RE GOING TO THE SAME HIGH SCHOOL AS HER!

REALLY?

YEAH!

AAAH...

SO YOU'RE IN HIGH SCHOOL! WHICH ONE?

WE WERE AT CENTRAL THIS YEAR, BUT NEXT YEAR I'M GOING TO GEORGE SAND* HIGH SCHOOL.

*GEORGE SAND WAS A 19TH CENTURY FRENCH FEMALE AUTHOR WHO WROTE UNDER A MAN'S NAME

I LOVED SPENDING THIS AFTERNOON WITH YOU!
YOU KNOW... EVEN WITH THAT TROUBLE WITH THOSE BULLIES...
BYE BYE
SEE YOU IN SEPTEMBER!
I'D LOVE IT IF EVERY DAY THIS SUMMER WERE EXACTLY LIKE THIS ONE! WELL, WITHOUT THE LITTLE PROBLEMS! JUST YOU, ME AND GOOD TIMES!
!!
UM...
ABOUT THAT, AZAMI...
HMM?

I WANTED TO WAIT UNTIL THE END OF THE WEEKEND TO TELL YOU..

BUT SINCE YOU MENTIONED IT..

WE'RE NOT EXACTLY GOING TO SPEND THE WHOLE SUMMER TOGETHER.. NEXT WEEK I'M GOING TO THE U.S. FOR BASKETBALL CAMP WITH JUDITH...

WHA...

STOP



WHAAT?!!

UH...

OUCH. MY EARS

I'M GOING TO BE IN THE U.S. FOR TWO WEEKS.

BUT..

WHY THE HELL ARE YOU GOING WITH JUDITH?!

BECAUSE SHE'S PAYING FOR THE TRIP

THAT RICH BITCH!

NOW I UNDERSTAND THAT SMIRK SHE GAVE ME WHEN SCHOOL LET OUT!

I DIDN'T THINK IT WOULD BOTHER YOU.

...

REALLY?! YOU DO?

IT DOESN'T BOTHER ME AT ALL! I EVEN THINK IT'S GREAT!

OF COURSE IT BOTHERS ME.

YES.

I ALREADY HAVE THE PLANE TICKETS!

JUDITH OFFERED TO SIGN ME UP FOR A SPORTS CAMP IN THE U.S. I TOLD HER IT WAS TOO MUCH, BUT...

YEAH.

YOU KNOW, THE END OF JULY'S MY BIRTHDAY.

PERSONALIZED PROFESSIONAL ADVISORS

ONE-ON-ONE AND GROUP TRAINING SESSIONS

MEET PRO PLAYERS

TRIPS TO NEW YORK AND PHILADELPHIA

GAMES AGAINST U.S. TEAMS

I TRIED TO SAY NO, BUT SHE SHOWED ME THE PROGRAM AND...

DELUXE ACCOMMODATIONS WITH SWIMMING POOL, JACUZZI AND GAME ROOM

I HAVE TO ADMIT... I DON'T EVEN LIKE SPORTS AND I'M STILL JEALOUS...

A SPORTS MAJOR AT UNIVERSITY AFTER HIGH SCHOOL!!

AND I SAID TO MYSELF... THIS COULD REALLY HELP ME IF I EVER WANT TO PURSUE...

AH...
UH... WE DIDN'T KNOW EACH OTHER YET LAST SUMMER, AND SINCE ALL MY FRIENDS ARE USED TO IT, I FORGOT THAT YOU DIDN'T KNOW...
IT'S A FAMILY TRADITION. EVERY SUMMER, WE GO TO MY MOTHER'S COUSIN'S HOUSE IN CANADA...
WHAT...?
WHAT DO YOU MEAN "IN CANADA"?
FLAAH
WAAAH!
IT UPSETS YOU THAT MUCH?! BUT WE'LL SEE EACH OTHER AGAIN WHEN I GET BACK!
SNIF
THAT'S IT... MY WONDERFUL SUMMER WITH GWYN GONE TO HELL...
TOGETHER...
WE WERE GOING TO SPEND IT...
I KNOW, BUT I THOUGHT...
BUT WE'LL BE TOGETHER! I GET BACK AROUND AUGUST 15! LONG BEFORE THE END OF SUMMER VACATION!
THIS SUMMER...
SNIF
AND THE ONLY WAY I COULD STOP YOU WOULD BE TO ASK YOU TO CHOOSE ME...
YOU'RE GOING ON A DREAM TRIP WITH JUDITH...
OVER BASKETBALL...
BUT I'D NEVER DO THAT... BECAUSE I KNOW HOW IMPORTANT IT IS TO YOU...
...SHE ARRANGED THE RETURN TICKET SO I CAN JOIN MY PARENTS IN CANADA!
"IN CANADA"?!
HUH?
WHAT?!
DID I HEAR THAT RIGHT...

MMM HMM...

IT'S ONLY A FEW WEEKS...

ONLY A FEW DAYS WITH *THAT GIRL*...

NOTHING'S GOING TO HAPPEN...

AT LEAST... I HOPE NOT...

*SHE'S* NOT GOING TO TRY ANYTHING...

IT'S JUST... I'M GOING TO MISS YOU SO MUCH!

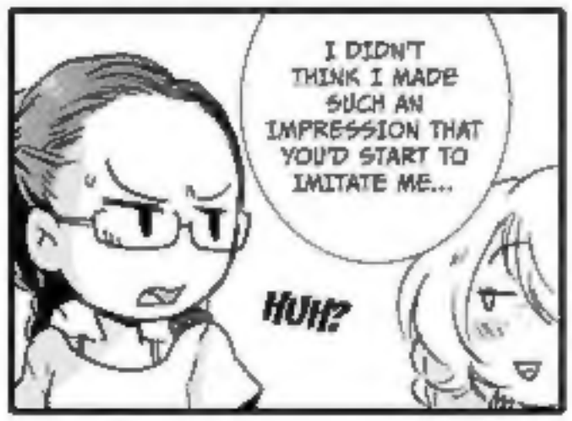
SQUEEZE

YOU'LL WRITE TO ME ONCE YOU GET TO THE CAMP? AND THEN FROM CANADA?

*STUPID QUESTION! OF COURSE! I'LL WRITE YOU EVERY DAY!*

...

# BREATH OF FLOWERS



BUT
LOVE WILL
TRIUMPH!

THE GUY WHO SAID
"LOVE CONQUERS ALL"
NEVER MET JUDITH...